

SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION ENACTED AND VETOED DURING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Prepared for the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee
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This document is a summary of transportation legislation enacted and vetoed during the 2015 legislative session. The summary includes only legislation related to the duties of the Department of Transportation and does not include all legislation that was considered by the transportation standing committees. Enacted legislation appears first and is followed by vetoed legislation.

House bills are summarized first in ascending order, then Senate bills in ascending order. Each bill summary is headed by the bill number and chapter number and the bill text is hyperlinked in the electronic version. Sections amended, sections enacted, sections repealed, effective dates, applicability dates, and termination dates are noted at the end of each bill summary.

ENACTED LEGISLATION

The enacted legislation is summarized in the following categories: fuel taxes, oversize and overweight loads, traffic control and safety, bicycles, and miscellaneous.

Fuel Taxes

1. [House Bill No. 60 \(Ch. 284\)](#) Revises penalty and interest provisions for gasoline and special fuel taxes and amends provisions related to the waiver of penalties.
 - a. Amends sections 15-70-210 and 15-70-352.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.
2. [House Bill No. 99 \(Ch. 220\)](#) Generally revises the administration of gasoline and special fuel taxes, combines the gasoline tax and special fuel tax into one part of law, allows for the issuance of a probationary distributor's license, eliminates the reissuance fee for a suspended or revoked distributor's license, and revises the time period for which distributors must keep records.
 - a. Amends sections 7-14-301, 7-14-304, 15-30-2618, 15-70-104, 15-70-113, 15-70-121, 15-70-231, 15-70-235, 15-70-236, 15-70-301, 15-70-320, 15-70-326, 15-70-330, 15-70-341, 15-70-343, 15-70-344, 15-70-345, 15-70-348, 15-70-349, 15-70-351, 15-70-352, 15-70-353, 15-70-354, 15-70-356, 15-70-357, 15-70-361, 15-70-362, 15-70-364, 15-70-366, 15-70-503, 15-70-521, 15-70-522, 15-70-719, 60-3-201, 60-3-202, 61-12-206, 67-1-301, 75-11-302, and 75-11-314.
 - b. Repeals sections 15-70-201, 15-70-202, 15-70-204, 15-70-205, 15-70-206, 15-70-207, 15-70-208, 15-70-209, 15-70-210, 15-70-211, 15-70-212, 15-70-221, 15-70-222, 15-70-223, 15-70-224, 15-70-225, 15-70-226, 15-70-232, 15-70-233, 15-70-242, 15-70-321, 15-70-324, and 15-70-372.
 - c. Effective October 1, 2015.

Oversize and Overweight Loads

1. [House Bill No. 222 \(Ch. 173\)](#) Prohibits local governments with self-governing powers from requiring fees and permits for movement of oversize loads on certain highways.
 - a. Amends sections 7-1-111, 7-14-4102, 7-14-4103, 7-14-4104, 61-10-121, and 61-12-101.
 - b. Enacts section.
 - c. Effective October 1, 2015.
2. [House Bill No. 246 \(Ch. 126\)](#) Requires that certain fees collected for oversize or overweight load permits be forwarded to the Department of Transportation for deposit in the highway nonrestricted account.
 - a. Amends section 61-10-126.
 - b. Effective March 27, 2015.
3. [Senate Bill No. 338 \(Ch. 219\)](#) Excludes certain vehicles from certain maximum weight limitations if traveling on portions of Montana Highway 16 and extends rulemaking authority.
 - a. Amends section 61-10-107.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.

Traffic Control and Safety

1. [House Bill No. 83 \(Ch. 91\)](#) Repeals requirements for visitor information center signs handled as joint projects by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Transportation.
 - a. Repeals section 60-2-243.
 - b. Effective March 17, 2015.
2. [House Bill No. 98 \(Ch. 93\)](#) Revises requirements for motor vehicle tire traction devices and removes the requirement that tire traction equipment conform to rules established by the Department of Justice.
 - a. Amends sections 61-9-406 and 61-9-520.
 - b. Effective March 18, 2015.
3. [Senate Bill No. 375 \(Ch. 395\)](#) Revises the maximum speed limits for certain vehicles traveling on certain highways, revises fines for speeding violations, and authorizes the Transportation Commission to establish temporary speed limits.
 - a. Amends sections 61-8-303, 61-8-309, 61-8-312, 61-8-725, and 61-11-203.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.

Bicycles

1. [House Bill No. 280 \(Ch. 255\)](#) Generally revises and clarifies laws related to bicycle traffic, revises the definition of "bicycle," provides a definition of "electronically assisted bicycle," allows bicyclists to overtake and pass on the right shoulder of a roadway, provides circumstances when a faster vehicle may pass a bicycle within a no-passing zone, revises where bicycles may be ridden on roadways, and revises the requirements for nighttime visibility and braking for bicycles.

- a. Amends sections 61-8-102, 61-8-324, 61-8-326, 61-8-604, 61-8-605, 61-8-606, and 61-8-607.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.
- 2. [House Bill No. 486 \(Ch. 374\)](#) Revises the definition of "bicycle" by removing the references to a moped and defines "moped" and adds references to existing applicable laws.
 - a. Amends sections 15-6-219, 33-23-204, 61-1-101, 61-8-102, 61-8-601, 61-8-602, 61-8-603, 61-8-604, 61-8-605, 61-8-606, 61-8-607, 61-8-608, 61-8-609, and 61-12-101.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.

Miscellaneous

- 1. [House Bill No. 61 \(Ch. 104\)](#) Generally revises railroad laws, updates railroad laws to comply with federal preemption of state regulation of railroads, eliminates certain Public Service Commission authority over freight and passenger rail service, eliminates certain railroad requirements related to the transportation of person, property, or both, eliminates certain requirements related to railroad equipment, eliminates commission authority over railroad rates, eliminates railroad corporation requirements, eliminates requirements related to loading platforms and spurs, eliminates certain railroad employee protections related to railroad closures, and updates federal references to railroad regulations.
 - a. Amends sections 10-3-1309, 15-6-227, 25-2-122, 69-12-209, 69-14-102, 69-14-111, 69-14-252, and 69-14-1102.
 - b. Enacts section.
 - c. Repeals sections 69-14-101, 69-14-112, 69-14-113, 69-14-114, 69-14-115, 69-14-116, 69-14-117, 69-14-118, 69-14-120, 69-14-131, 69-14-132, 69-14-133, 69-14-134, 69-14-135, 69-14-137, 69-14-201, 69-14-202, 69-14-203, 69-14-204, 69-14-205, 69-14-206, 69-14-207, 69-14-208, 69-14-209, 69-14-210, 69-14-211, 69-14-212, 69-14-213, 69-14-214, 69-14-215, 69-14-216, 69-14-231, 69-14-232, 69-14-233, 69-14-234, 69-14-235, 69-14-236, 69-14-237, 69-14-238, 69-14-321, 69-14-322, 69-14-401, 69-14-402, 69-14-501, 69-14-502, 69-14-503, 69-14-504, 69-14-505, 69-14-506, 69-14-507, 69-14-508, 69-14-509, 69-14-510, 69-14-511, 69-14-512, 69-14-513, 69-14-514, 69-14-515, 69-14-531, 69-14-532, 69-14-533, 69-14-534, 69-14-535, 69-14-536, 69-14-537, 69-14-538, 69-14-539, 69-14-551, 69-14-552, 69-14-553, 69-14-554, 69-14-555, 69-14-556, 69-14-557, 69-14-558, 69-14-559, 69-14-560, 69-14-561, 69-14-562, 69-14-563, 69-14-801, 69-14-803, 69-14-804, 69-14-805, 69-14-811, 69-14-812, 69-14-813, 69-14-814, and 69-14-1001.
 - d. Effective October 1, 2015.
- 2. [House Bill No. 132 \(Ch. 141\)](#) Allows the reallocation of certain unspent special revenue funds to counties that have an established drinking and driving prevention program on an equal basis.
 - a. Amends section 61-2-108.
 - b. Effective July 1, 2015.
- 3. [House Bill No. 167 \(Ch. 409\)](#) Revises laws related to off-highway vehicle nonresident temporary-use permits, increases the nonresident temporary-use permit fee for off-highway

vehicles, requires a nonresident temporary-use permit for all off-highway vehicles owned by nonresidents, and requires that money collected from the fee be used by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for certain purposes.

- a. Amends sections 23-2-802 and 23-2-814.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.
4. [House Bill No. 241 \(Ch. 199\)](#) Clarifies that certain authorized emergency vehicles are not considered commercial motor vehicles.
 - a. Amends section 61-1-101.
 - b. Effective October 1, 2015.
5. [House Bill No. 604 \(Ch. 384\)](#) Requires collection of information and reporting by the Department of Transportation on trails and paths created under the Montana Footpath and Bicycle Trail Act of 1975.
 - a. Enacts section.
 - b. Effective May 4, 2015.
 - c. Terminates May 1, 2017.
6. [Senate Bill No. 332 \(Ch. 148\)](#) Establishes the Joseph J. Dunn Memorial Highway in Cascade County, Montana, on Interstate 15 between Great Falls and Ulm, adjacent to the Office of the Cascade County Sheriff's Department, and directs the Department of Transportation to install signs at the location and to include the location on the next publication of the state highway map.
 - a. Enacts section.
 - b. Effective March 27, 2015.

VETOED LEGISLATION

1. [House Bill No. 599](#). Allowing for permanent registration of certain trucks over 1 ton rated capacity and certain truck tractors and extending rulemaking authority.
 - a. Amending sections 15-8-202, 61-3-303, 61-3-321, 61-3-332, 61-3-506, 61-3-537, 61-3-562, and 61-6-158.
 - b. Effective January 1, 2016.
 - c. Applies to vehicle registration for trucks and truck tractors after December 31, 2015.
 - d. [Vetoed](#) May 5, 2015.
 - e. Veto override [mail poll](#) failed.